
TYPES OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Retirement

Survivors

Disability

Medicare

SOCIAL
SECURITY
& YOU

LESSON 4 BENEFITS

HANDOUT 1

CHILD'S BENEFITS

These benefits are payable on the earnings of a retired, deceased, or disabled worker:

- ☐ Unmarried children under 18:
under 19 if still in high school
- ☐ Unmarried children disabled before
age 22 who continue to be disabled

WHO CAN GET SURVIVORS BENEFITS

These benefits are payable on the
deceased worker's earnings record.

CHILD

Unmarried child under 18, or under
19 if still in high school

Unmarried child disabled before age
22 and continues to be disabled

WIDOW OR WIDOWER, at age 60 or
if disabled at age 50

DEPENDENT PARENT (of worker)
62 or older

WHO CAN GET RETIREMENT BENEFITS

These benefits are payable on the retired worker's earnings record:

WORKER

Reduced benefits at 62

Full benefits at 65 (67 by 2027)

Increased benefits for retirement after 65 (67 by 2027)

WIFE OR HUSBAND at age 62

CHILD

WHO CAN GET DISABILITY BENEFITS

These benefits are payable on the earnings record of the disabled worker (except disabled widow and widower benefits, which are paid on the record of the deceased worker). Note that wife/husband and child benefits based on the disabled worker's earnings are essentially the same as those payable on the retired worker's earnings.

DISABLED WORKER

WIFE OR HUSBAND

Same as those payable on retired worker's earnings

CHILD

Same as those payable on retired or deceased worker's earnings

WIDOW OR WIDOWER at age 50

MEDICARE

For people 65 or over

For people receiving disability benefits for at least 24 months

For people with permanent kidney failure

Has two parts:

PART A-Hospital Insurance covers most inpatient hospital expenses.

PART B - Medical Insurance covers doctor bills and other outpatient medical expenses.

YOUR EARNINGS RECORD

Benefits are based on earnings credited to your lifetime earnings record maintained by Social Security.

- ☐ Earnings reported to your record by employer.
- ☐ You receive statement of earnings paid on a W-2 form at end of year.
- ☐ Self-employed report on income tax return.

You should check your earnings at least once every three years.

- ☐ Ask the Social Security office to send you a Form 7004 with which you may request a statement of your earnings.
- ☐ When you send in the Form 7004, Social Security will send you a *“Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement”* which shows not only earnings but an estimate of benefits based on those earnings.

HOW MUCH WORK YOU NEED FOR BENEFITS

The amount of work needed for benefits to be paid on your earnings record depends on the type of benefit and the age at which you apply.

RETIREMENT

No more than 10 years

SURVIVORS

At least one and one-half years

DISABILITY

Ranges from one and one-half years out of the last three years for workers under 24, to five out of the last 10 years for workers 31 and older.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

SSI is a federal assistance program administered by Social Security.

- ☐ SSI payments are made to needy people who are age 65 and older, or blind, or disabled.
- ☐ Provides nationwide, uniform floor of income for the aged, disabled, blind.
- ☐ Most states supplement payment based on local standards of need.

People who do not have enough work credits to qualify for Social Security or whose benefits and other income are low may qualify for SSI if they fall within the SSI income and resource limits.

HOW BENEFIT AMOUNTS ARE FIGURED

Based on average annual earnings
over your working life

- ☐ The higher the earnings, the higher the benefit, up to a maximum
- ☐ Weighted in favor of low earners, families

Designed to maintain purchasing
power

- ☐ Wages indexed to reflect increases in average wages
- ☐ Benefits increase annually with cost of living